

# The Governor's 2021 Workforce Development Summit

St. Croix – October 6, 2021, Caribbean Cinema, Sunny Isle

St. Thomas – October 7, 2021, Caribbean Cinema, USVI Market Square

St. John – October 8, 2021, The Cleone H. Creque Legislative Conference Room

Getting Our People Back to Work: **Reengaging and Rebuilding a Thriving Workforce**

Agenda	
8:00 AM – 8:45 AM	Registration
8:45 AM – 9:00 AM	<p><b>Emcees:</b> Michael Fazio, <i>President, Workforce 180</i>, Asiah Clendinen Gumbs, <i>Member, VI Workforce Development Board</i></p> <p><b>Welcome:</b> Sonia Boyce, <i>Executive Director, VI Workforce Development Board</i></p> <p><b>Greetings:</b> Honorable Gary A. Molloy, <i>Commissioner, VI Department of Labor</i></p>
9:00 AM – 9:30 AM	<p><b>Remarks:</b> Honorable Albert Bryan, Jr., <i>Governor, United States Virgin Islands</i></p>
9:30 AM – 9:45 AM	<p>BREAK</p> <p><b>(Green Group) Feature:</b> Division of Personnel – Applying for a Public Sector Opportunity CDBG-DR Skills for Today – VIDOL ODR/VIFHA/HUD Programs/Projects with Vacancies/Opportunities</p>

**GOVERNOR'S SESSION – 9:45 AM – 10:45 AM**

**Barriers and Solutions to Filling Virgin Islands Infrastructure Jobs**

**Moderator:**  
**Honorable Albert Bryan, Jr., Governor**

**Presenters:** John Engerman, Chief Executive Officer, *The Strategy Group*

Ray J. Barry, President/Principal Consultant, *Barry Financial Services*

Leon Hughes, Leon Hughes, Founder & CXO, NEARiX

Sana Joseph-Smith, *Governor's Policy Advisor on Workforce Development and Education*

Available workers lack the right skills, education and training must align with employer demand, and our current education pipeline is insufficient to fill jobs.

Presenters will discuss how can we collaborate across government, private sector, education, training providers and other workforce stakeholders to collectively move the Virgin Islands workforce agenda forward.

10:45 AM – 11:00 AM

BREAK

**(RED GROUP)** Feature: Division of Personnel – Applying for a Public Sector Opportunity

CDBG-DR Skills for Today – VIDOL  
ODR/VIFHA/HUD Programs/Projects with  
Vacancies/Opportunities

## CONCURRENT SESSIONS

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

### The Future of the Virgin Islands Maritime Workforce

**Moderator:**

Captain Matthew Berry, Marine Manager, *Virgin Islands Port Authority*

**Presenters:**

Oriel Blake, Executive Director, *Virgin Islands Professional Charter, Inc.*

Craig Harms, USCG Captain, *SailSonoma*

Captain Clarence Stephenson, St. Thomas, *Virgin Islands*

An important issue facing the maritime industry today is a shrinking workforce. Marine jobs in many cases are highly skilled and require specific technical training. There is a challenge filling those jobs with employees that have the proper training. We must develop a responsive workforce that enables the maritime sector to remain a substantial contributor to the economy of the Virgin Islands, train Virgin Islanders for maritime careers and grow awareness of occupations and develop career pathways. Presenters will discuss ways to grow awareness of occupations and develop career pathways, how to improve workforce readiness, ways to support recruitment and retention, and how to promote sustained industry engagement.

### Thriving in a Jobseeker's Market: How to Attract, Recruit and Retain Quality Talent

**Moderator:**

Cindy Richardson, Director Nominee, *Division of Personnel*

**Presenters:**

Shomari Moorehead, Solutions Manager, *CrucianPoint, LLC*

Juliette Bynum, Director, *Select Temp*

Employees are a company's greatest asset. How you treat them is how they treat your customers. Success in attracting and retaining employees in the new economy depends on the culture you create. Presenters will discuss simple tips and strategies for employee recognition and uncover best practices and ways to use training and development as a reward and retention strategy.

*Staffing & Business  
Center*

### **Becoming an Eligible Training Provider and Seeking Government Funding: The Do's and Don'ts**

**Moderator:**

Sana Joseph-Smith  
*Governor's Policy  
Advisor on Workforce  
Development and  
Education*

**Presenters:**

Sandy Mead, National  
Director of Workforce  
Development,  
MedCerts

Mario Francis,  
Principal, *Raphael O.  
Wheatley Skills Center*

Iffat Walker, Founder  
& Executive Director,  
*Community Action  
Now!*

Access to education, training and the supportive services needed to prepare for and secure high-demand occupations that pay family-sustaining wages is a necessity for Virgin Islanders. Presenters will provide information regarding the do's and don'ts of being an eligible training provider. They will discuss ways to navigate the WIOA system to create career pathways for all Virgin Islanders, including individuals who are receiving public assistance, the unemployed or underemployed, those who are deficient in basic skills, as well as persons with disabilities, including disabled veterans, and others who have significant barriers to employment.

### **Financial Empowerment: Improving Our Client's Economical Journey Through Financial Literacy and Training**

**Moderator:**

Oran C. Roebuck,  
Senior VP and Division  
Manager VI Region,

In workforce development, great emphasis is placed on training jobseekers on how to maximize their time at work. However, we often ignore the opportunity to help those we serve plan for and meet their financial goals. How can we help them

<p><i>Banco Popular de Puerto Rico</i></p> <p><b>Presenters:</b></p> <p>Abbelle Bakr, Owner and Operator, <i>IBCVI &amp; Co.</i></p> <p>Hubert Frederick, Owner/Broker-Agent, <i>Island Insurance Agency</i></p> <p>Steve Lowe, Chief Financial Officer, The Strategy Group</p>	<p>with financial coaching and financial literacy training to remove anxiety and help jobseekers find additional stability as they move through workforce development programs and into their careers?</p>
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**Strategies to Develop Essential Soft Skills**

<p><b>Presenters:</b></p> <p>Bradley Williams, Chief Customer Officer &amp; Vice President of Operations, <i>Equus Workforce Solutions</i></p> <p>David Genaro, Regional Director, <i>Equus Workforce Solutions</i></p> <p>Yvette Ali, Project Director, <i>Equus Workforce Solutions</i></p>	<p>Presenters will discuss ways to grow awareness of occupations and develop career pathways, how to improve workforce readiness, ways to support recruitment and retention, and how to promote sustained industry engagement.</p>
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	Lunch
12:00 PM – 12:45 PM	<b>VIDOL/Equus Presentation (Streamed to All)</b>
12:45 PM – 1:15 PM	<p><b>Keynote Speaker:</b></p> <p>Ron Painter, CEO, National Association of Workforce Boards (NAWB)</p>
1:15 PM – 1:30 PM	<p>Break</p> <p><b>(BLUE GROUP)</b> Feature: Division of Personnel –  Applying for a Public Sector Opportunity  CDBG-DR Skills for Today – VIDOL  ODR/VIFHA/HUD Programs/Projects with  Vacancies/Opportunities</p>
<b>CONCURRENT SESSIONS</b> <b>1:30 PM – 2:30 PM</b>	
<b>Thriving in a Jobseeker’s Market: How to Attract, Recruit and Retain Quality Talent</b>	
<p><b>Moderator:</b>  Cindy Richardson,  Director Nominee,  <i>Division of Personnel</i></p> <p><b>Presenters:</b>  Shomari Moorehead,  Solutions Manager,  <i>CrucianPoint, LLC</i></p> <p>Juliette Bynum,  Director, <i>Select Temp Staffing &amp; Business Center</i></p>	<p>Employees are a company’s greatest asset. How you treat them is how they treat your customers. Success in attracting and retaining employees in the new economy depends on the culture you create. Presenters will discuss simple tips and strategies for employee recognition and uncover best practices and ways to use training and development as a reward and retention strategy.</p>

<b>Workforce Resources for Employers – Recruitment, Incentives, and Upskilling</b>	
<p><b>Presenters:</b>  Honorable Gary A. Molloy,  Commissioner, <i>VI Department of Labor and Team</i></p>	<p>Virgin Islands businesses must rethink strategies and look at new talent pipelines and other workforce innovations to address the issue of recruitment and retention. The Virgin Islands Government offers several incentives to our local businesses designed to help them grow and thrive in these changing times. During this session, learn how to participate in hiring laid-off workers in sought-after occupations, how to access training and development programs, how to participate in the Registered Apprenticeship program, the strategies we need to implement to realistically educate, train, and connect displaced talent to the new world of work.</p>
<b>Embed with VIDOL: The Forgotten Talent Pool: Getting Justice Involved Individuals Back to Work</b>	
<p><b>Moderator:</b>  Dr. Suzanne Magras,  Director, <i>UVI CELL</i></p> <p><b>Presenters:</b>  Corey Magras,  Director of Food and Nutrition Services,  <i>SRMC</i></p> <p>Adryann Glen,  CEO/Executive Director, <i>Align Community</i></p> <p>Wynn Timermark,  Director, <i>VI Bureau of Corrections</i></p>	<p>Presenters will look within and beyond our prison walls and share insight on the best practices for helping this untapped employment pool back to work. This workshop will discuss the realities employers face when hiring returning citizens, providing them with essential resources, and retaining their services.</p>

## Aligning Workforce Development with Economic Development to Grow and Retain Your Workforce

**Moderator:**

Adrienne L. Williams-Octalien, Director,  
*USVI Office of Disaster Recovery*

**Presenters:**

Dr. David Hall,  
President, *University of the Virgin Islands*

Peter Chapman,  
Executive Director,  
*UVI RTPark*

Wendy Wheeler,  
Human Resources,  
*Economic Development Authority*

Aminah Saleem,  
*UVI RTPark*

We realize that many displaced workers will seek employment opportunities in new and emerging sectors while others will go the route of self-employment or entrepreneurship. This presentation will discuss how best to align workforce development initiatives with economic development initiatives during the COVID 19 era and beyond.

### Hustle & Grind:

**Presenters:**

Mike Fazio, President,  
*Workforce 180*

Didier E. Hughes, III  
Special Assistant,  
*Office of the Governor*

Presenters will offer tips and ideas on, Job search like a pro, tips to negotiating salary without losing the offer, how to get noticed and stay in the game, how to create next level resumes, the digital network, and the importance of understanding labor market information.

<b>Career and Training Job Expo - In Person (VACCINATED) only</b>	
2:45 PM – 3:00 PM	<p>Closing Remarks:</p> <p>Sana Joseph-Smith, <i>Governor’s Policy Advisor on Workforce Development and Education</i></p>
3:00 – 5:00 PM	<p>Feature: Division of Personnel – Applying for a Public Sector Opportunity –</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">CDBG-DR Skills for Today – VIDOL</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">ODR/VIFHA/HUD Programs/Projects with Vacancies/Opportunities</p>